

spinifex, *Plectrachne melvillei*, is the dominant plant. Spinifex does not appear to occur anywhere on the surrounding plain within one hundred miles of Mount Hale, although this observation suggests that it may be present at the top of neighbouring hills, for example Mount Matthew and Mount Gould. A Painted Finch was flushed from its nest containing 5 eggs in this small patch of spinifex. The nest was made of spinifex, without an entrance tunnel but with a 'verandah' of spinifex straws that protruded about two inches above and beyond the nest cup. It was set in the side of a spinifex tussock about twelve inches above the ground and was within twenty feet of the summit. The species has not been seen by us on Mileura Station, adjacent and to the south of Mt. Hale, although continual observations have been recorded there since 1959. In 1968 the weather in the area was characterised by good, but not exceptional, summer and winter rains, a relatively cold winter and cool spring. Mount Hale is approximately 170 miles SSE of the Barlee Range.

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**Records of Beach-drifted Sea-birds, April 1968.**—On a visit to Western Australia I made the following observations on visiting southern sea-birds on local beaches:

Wilson Storm-Petrel, *Oceanites Oceanicus*. I found one washed up on Scarborough Beach on April 15, after gale force winds. Although not uncommon off-shore specimens are not often found washed ashore. This specimen was  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length and had a wing-span of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Yellow-nosed Albatross, *Diomedea chlororhynchus*. Found at Scarborough on the same day. The remains consisted of a clean-picked body skeleton with wings attached, but minus the head and legs. Identification was from the under-wing pattern.

Dove-Prion, *Pachyptila desolata*. On April 25 I found a live bird at Yallingup Beach. It was seemingly unharmed but was opening and closing its bill, with the wings outspread. It died shortly after discovery. Measurements: length, 295 mm.; wing, 190 mm.; wingspan, 620 mm.; culmen, 27 mm.; width, 14 mm.; tarsus, 33 mm.

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